

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 EB-11 HEW-08 COME-00

TRSE-00 RSR-01 /073 W

----- 104953

R 041138 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8625

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 2745

E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: EIND, PK

SUB: PHARMACEUTICALS: RECENT GENERIC DEVELOPMENTS

REF: ISLAMABAD 1894

1. IN PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 30, ON EVE OF DEADLINE ESTABLISHED BY DRUGS ACT FOR SWITCHOVER TO SALE OF GENERIC DRUGS, HEALTH MINISTER SHEIKH RASHID ANNOUNCED THAT SINCE INTRODUCTION OF MANUFACTURING UNDER GENERIC NAMES PRICES OF 50 DRUGS HAD FALLEN, 36 BY 72 PERCENT OR MORE. HE ANTICIPATED FURTHER DROP IN FIRST HALF OF APR, BUT WARNED THAT IF PRODUCERS " GANGED UP" TO KEEP PRICES HIGH, MINISTRY MIGHT STEP IN TO FIX PRICES.

2. RASHID STATED THAT BAN ON SALE OF BRAND- NAME DRUGS WOULD BE STRICTLY ENFORCED WITH VIOLATORS SUBJECT TO SEVEN YEAR PRISON TERMS PLUS FINES OF UP TO '10,000. HE ASSERTED, HOWEVER, THAT ALL GENUINE PROBLEMS OF MANUFACTURERS AND RETAILERS WOULD RECEIVE FULL CONSIDERATION. WITH REGARD TO PROBLEMS OF DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS BRANDED STOCKS, RASHID NOTED THAT FIRMS WERE REQUIRED TO INFORM MINISTRY OF THEIR STOCK POSITION BY APR 7. BRANDED PRODUCTS WITH 90 PERCENT OR MORE EQUIVALENCY TO DRUGS LISTED

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IN NATIONAL FORMULARY COULD BE RESOLD IF RELABELED WITH
GENERIC NAME STICKERS. REMAINING NON- FORMULARY STOCKS
CAN BE RETAINED WITHOUT PENALTY PENDING FURTHER DECISION
BY GOP ON THEIR DISPOSAL.

3. IN FURTHER EFFORT TO EASE PROBLEM OF UNUSED BRAND-
NAME STOCKS, MINISTRY ANNOUNCED APR 1 THAT IT IS
PREPARING A LIST OF ADDITIONAL BRANDED PRODUCTS
APPROXIMATELY EQUIVALENT TO DRUGS ON NATIONAL FORMULARY
WHICH COULD ALSO BE SOLD WITH GENERIC STICKERS. MINISTRY
HAS ALSO INDICATED THAT HOSPITALS CAN CONTINUE TO DISPOSE
OF UNUTILIZED BRANDED STOCKS THEY HAVE ON HAND THROUGH
JUNE 30.

4. ON APR 1, 34 MORE BRAND- NAME DRUGS WERE EXEMPTED
FROM GENERICS ACT. EXEMPTIONS NOW TOTAL 337. OF THESE
201 EXPIRE JUNE 30 AND REST DEC 30. GOP HAS NOT
INDICATED HOW MANY OF EXPIRING EXEMPTIONS WILL BE
RENEWED. GOVERNMENT ADDED 61 DRUGS TO NATIONAL FORMULARY
APRIL 2 AND THEN DELETED 37 FOLLOWING DAY. TOTAL NUMBER
OF PRODUCTS ON FORMULARY IS NOW ABOUT 1300.

5. COMMENTS SEPTEL.
SOBER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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